

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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R 250803Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WAHDC 2886

INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL MURABAYA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 2529

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ID

SUBJECT: STUDENTS OPPOSE GOVERNMENT REGULATION

REF: JAKARTA 1581

BEGIN SUMMARY: UNIVERSITY OF INDONESIA STUDENT COUNCIL CHAIRMAN STATED FEB. 24 THAT HIS ORGANIZATION REJECTED MINISTRY OF EDUCATION RULING WHICH PROHIBITED PLANNED STUDENT PROCESSION THROUGH STREETS FEB. 21, AND WOULD CONVEY REJECTION TO MINISTER PERSONALLY FEB. 26. STATEMENT MADE AT CELEBRATION OF TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH OF STUDENT MARTYR OPPOSING SUKARNO REGIME. UI RECTOR AND GENERAL NASUTION ALSO SPOKE AT CELEBRATION, WHILE AUTHORITIES TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO LIMIT STUDENT ATTENDANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, AT CEREMONY ON UNIVERSITY OF INDONESIA CAMPUS FEB. 24 COMMEMORATING TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH OF STUDENT MARTYR ARIF RACHMAN HAKIM PROTESTING SUKARNO REGIME, STUDENT COUNCIL CHAIRMAN DIPO ALAM ANNOUNCED THAT HIS ORGANIZATION REJECTED MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE RULING NO. 028 BECAUSE IT "KILLED CONFIDENTIAL

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STUDENT CREATIVITY." THE RULING PROHIBITED A PLANNED

STUDENT MARCH WITHOUT POSTERS CELEBRATING THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR FEB. 21 BECAUSE MORE THAN 100 STUDENTS WERE TO TAKE PART. ACCORDING TO POLICE REGULATIONS OFF-CAMPUS ACTIVITIES MUST HAVE PERMISSION OF AUTHORITIES IF MORE THAN 100 PERSONS ARE INVOLVED. NOTING THAT APATHY IN STUDENT CIRCLES WAS NOT THE FAULT OF STUDENTS THEMSELVES BUT RATHER OF THE AUTHORITIES, DIPO ALAM SAID UI STUDENTS WOULD VISIT MINISTER'S OFFICE FEB. 26 TO PERSONALLY CONVEY THEIR REJECTION OF THE RULING.

2. UI RECTOR MAHAR MARDJONO SPOKE NEXT AND TERMED DIPO ALAM'S REMARKS "EMOTIONAL", BUT SAID IT WAS NOT HIS INTENTION TO PROHIBIT FEB. 21 MARCH BUT RATHER A DECISION BY HIGHER AUTHORITIES. FEATURED SPEAKER GENERAL ABDUL HARIS NASUTION URGED THE STUDENTS TO INCREASE THEIR CONSTRUCTIVE CREATIVITY AND TO PLAY THE ROLE OF PIONEERS IN THE IDEALISTIC STRUGGLE BEGUN TEN YEARS AGO BY ARIF RACHMAN HAKIM. "WITHOUT CLOSING OUR EYES TO THE DECIDED IMPROVEMENTS," HE SAID, "WE STILL CONTINUE TO COMPLAIN ABOUT IRREGULARITIES AND WASTE, INJUSTICES AND SOCIAL DEFECTS, IN ADDITION TO OFFICIAL MISUSE OF INFLUENCE, PROFITEERING, SELF-ENRICHMENT AND THE LIKE."

3. AUTHORITIES ALSO TRIED TO LIMIT ATTENDANCE AT ARIF'S GRAVE AND AT NASUTION SPEECH FEB. 24 TO 100, BUT OVER 1,000 STUDENTS WERE ESTIMATED TO HAVE BEEN PRESENT AT EACH.

4. COMMENT: RECTOR'S SECRETARY TOLD EMBOFF RECTOR WAS FURIOUS AT GOVERNMENT FOR NOT ALLOWING HIM TO HANDLE SITUATION WHICH HE THOUGHT HE COULD CONTROL. BAN ON MARCH AND ATTEMPT TO LIMIT ATTENDANCE AT FEB. 24 CEREMONIES REFLECT GOI CONCERN THAT NO INCIDENTS MAR ATMOSPHERE OF ASEAN SUMMIT. HOWEVER, SOME OBSERVERS THOUGHT OFFICIALS DID NOT DARE ARREST DIPO ALAM FOR FEAR OF PROVOKING VIOLENT REACTION FROM STUDENTS. NASUTION HAS NOT MADE A PUBLIC STATEMENT IN MONTHS, AND HIS REMARKS ON THIS OCCASION WERE CONSIDERED THE STRONGEST HE HAS MADE IN A LONG TIME.

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